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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH



Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1950



BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Alderman Dean.

Vice-Chairman: Councillor Whalley.

Members:

The Mayor (Alderman Brooks, J.P.)

Alderman Jones, J.P.

Welsby, J.P.

Councillor Armitage

,, Benyon.

" Bradley.

,, Geere, C.C.

" Higgins.

" Royce.

" Wilson.

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

R. Sydney Davidson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:

A. H. S. Lewis, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E., Jt. Board, R.S.I., Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspector:

A. Livesey, Cert. R.S.I. & S.I.E. Jt. Board, R.S.I. Food Inspection.

Clerks:

Miss M. M. Helme. Miss S. Hampson.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, together with the report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1950.

The year has been free from any serious epidemic disease.

Of the 22 infant deaths, only 5 occurred at home. In 2 cases death was by misadventure; one asphyxiation by food and the other asphyxiation by bed clothing. Prematurity was responsible for 9 deaths, 8 of these in hospital, and congenital defects accounted for 5.

The Infantile Mortality Rate of 47 compared with 29.8 for England and Wales is higher than it has been for five years. It has risen from 37 the previous year, which in turn had risen from 28, the lowest on record, in 1948.

Since the Infant Welfare service was transferred to the control of the County Council in July, 1948, these figures, disquieting as they may be, are not the direct concern of the Borough Council.

The inspection of dwelling houses and the procuring of the necessary repairs to defects continues to be a tremendous and thankless task for the Sanitary Inspectors. It is tremendous because of the old property existing in the town and thankless because of the obstacles to progress provided by shortage of materials and labour, and the high cost of these when available. It is difficult to institute proceedings against a landlord who can justifiably claim one of these factors as a defence to his incompletion of repairs demanded, a position not readily understood by a suffering tenant.

The shortage of houses and the gross overcrowding which results is another of the many problems of the Health Department.

As in former years, I am indebted for the help and encouragement given by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and the loyal co-operation of the members of the Health Department.

I am,

Your obedient servant,
R. Sydney Davidson,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

	STA	TISTIC	S OF	THE	AREA		
Area =	= 1504 statute	acres.					
P	opulation	$28,290 \\ 28,717$				nated mid Census.	1950.
	Number of ink Number of ink Rateable Valu Sum represent	abited l e (1st A	nouses, pril, 1	, 1950 950)		 s	7,104 8,810 £146,996 £600
Vital S	Statistics for the	year 19	50.				
В	IRTHS.				. 1	77 1	m . 1
	Legitimate Illegitimate				lales 245 9	Females 213 5	Total 458 14
	Total b	irths	•••	2	254	218	472
	Still Births	•••	•••	 Fa	4 arnwort		6 gland & Wales
	Birth-rate per Still Births per Still Births per	r 1,000 t	otal b	irths	16.7 13 0.21		15·8 — 0·37
	75 01.0			Mal	es I	Females	Total
1	Deaths of infa	nts unde	e r 1 ye	ar:			
	Legitimate Illegitimate	•••	•••		14	8	22 —
	Total	•••	•••	•••	14	8	22 —
			Fa	arnwoi	rth 1	England &	Wales
	Infant Mort (all infant			47 r of a		29.8	3
	Deaths of in	fants ur	der 4	weeks	of age	1	4
	Maternal mort	ality: -	-				
	Deaths from abortion	pregna 	ncy, cl	hildbir • •	th and	N	il
	Death rate per	1,000 p	opulat	tion :-	_		
	Farnworth England & V	 Wales					3.7 1.6

Causes of Death in all Ages in 1950.

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	5
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	1
Other infective and parasitic diseases	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	21
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6
Malignant neoplasm, breast	12
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	2
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	31
Diabetes	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	45
Coronary disease, angina	38
Unportangian with boart diagram	10
Hypertension with heart disease	~ ~
Other heart disease	65
Other circulatory disease	12
Influenza	1
Pneumonia	10
Bronchitis	29
Other diseases of respiratory system	6
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2
Enteritis	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	14
Hyperplasia of prostate	4
Congenital malformations	5
Accidental	9
Suicidal	2
Other	51
Total	386

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DIPHTHERIA.

There were no cases of diphtheria in the resident population of Farnworth. The two cases notified were patients in Townleys Hospital and were not inhabitants of the Borough.

DIPHTHERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

Anti-toxin is available in 10,000 units free to general practitioners for patients resident in the Borough. During the year 40,000 units were issued.

SCARLET FEVER.

Out of 39 cases of scarlet fever notified during the year, 28 were treated in hospital. There were no deaths due to this disease.

PNEUMONIA.

There were 29 cases notified and there were 10 deaths.

PUERPERAL PYRENIA.

One case was notified and this was treated in hospital.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

One case was notified and this was treated in hospital.

Infectious Diseases, 1950.

	Scarlet fever				•••		39
	Diphtheria (belo	nging '	to outsi	ide dis	trict)		2
	Measles (excludin	ig rube	ella)				303
	Whooping cough					•••	62
	Pneumonia (prim			enzal)			29
	Puerperal pyrexis						1
	Meningococcal in						2
	Acute poliomyeli						1
	Dysentery						3
	Ophthalmia neon	atorun	a				1
	Erysipelas						3
	Food poisoning			•••			3
Tre	ated in hospital:						
	Scarlet fever						28
	Diphtheria						2
	Measles		• • •				2
	Whooping cough						6
	TD i						5
	Puerperal pyrexia	a					1
	Meningococcal int						1
	Acute poliomyelit						1
	Ophthalmia neon						1

Tuberculosis

Cases notified :--

The treatment of tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council.

FOOD POISONING.

3 cases of Salmonella infection occurred in one family during the year. Incapacity was slight and no bacteriological confirmation of the suspected food was obtained.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and

satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The supply was from Heaton Sand Filters, Ferns Park Pressure Filters and the Sweetloves Open Sand Filters, and 36 samples of both raw and filtered water were subjected to full chemical analysis and 145 samples of both raw and filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. The results showed that general filtration and treatment of the raw water were necessary, and that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in almost all cases in 100 mils. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action. No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

An additional 1327 yards of water main, varying in diameter from 2'' to 4'' were laid in Farnworth during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

This is almost entirely on the combined system. There is one main sewage disposal plant at Hall Lane Sewage Works and a subsidiary plant at Lark Hill.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Acc	omm	odat	ion	at	the	end	of	1950	:
	* *								

No. of privy middens	3
No. of closets attached to these middens	9
No. of pail closets	5
No. of dry ashpits (excluding middens)	Nil
No. of movable ashbins	9092
No. of trough closets	Nil
No. of waste water closets	217
No. of fresh water closets	9780
No. of houses on water carriage system	8810
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh	
water closets during the year	12

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

Three covered motor vehicles carry out a combined collection of household refuse and salvage. The refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping on a site well away from all dwelling houses.

Sanitary Inspections During 1950 (including Housing).

Number of premises visited	 	•••	•••	1563
Number of visits :—				
Housing and nuisances	 • • •	•••	• • •	2285
Dairies	 • • •	•••	•••	21
Farms	 •••	• • •	•••	2
Ice Cream Premises	 •••	•••	•••	83
Food Premises	 • • •	•••	•••	84

Bakehouses				• • •		25
Butchers' Shops						36
Fish Fryers						20
Shops						71
Factories						82
Rat infestations				•••		329
Disinfections		•••	•	•	•	32
Infectious disease		•••	•••	•••	•••	
	es	•••	• • •	•••	• • •	64
Overcrowding						23
Public Baths						23
Drainage work						354
Smoke observation	ons					23
Refuse disposal a	nd c	ollection				23
Milk distributors						20
Caravans		•••		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •		13
0.1.1		•••	•••	•••		10
	• • •	•••	• • •	•••	• • •	
Piggeries	• • •	• • •	• • •	•••	• • •	10
Public Houses		•••				6
Public convenien	ces					6
Mortuary		•••				4
Stables						5
Cinemas						2

Defects or nuisances :--

Number discovered 1837. No. abated 1664.

No. of notices served :—

Informal 493. Statutory 150.

No legal proceedings were taken during the year.

SHOPS AND OFFICES.

Defects and Inspections Contraven- Remedied tions

(a)	Shops				
	to ve	ntilati	on a	nd te	m-
	peratu				
	sanitar	y con	venien	ces	• • •

71 — —

(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e., ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc.

sanitary conveniences, etc. — —

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

23 observations were taken during the year.

No action was necessary as a result of these observations.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. Inspections :—

Premises	I			Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without med power Factories with med		13	1	_
power		101	13	
Other premises		5	3	
Total			17	

2. Cases in Which Defects Were Found:-

Particulars	Found	Remedied Pr	cosecutions
Want of cleanliness	4	4	
Overcrowding			
Unreasonable temperature	_		
Inadequate ventilation			
Ineffective drainage of floors			
Sanitary conveniences:—			
(a) insufficient	10	4	
(b) unsuitable or defective	14	13	
(c) not separate for sexes			_
Other offences against the Act	1	1	
Total	29	22	

VERMIN INFESTATION.

Particulars of action taken during the year.

No. of houses disinfested :-

(a)	By Hydrogen Cyanide	(carried	out by	Contra	actor)	
	(1) Council houses	•••	•••	• • •	•••	Nil
	(2) Other houses				• • •	Nil
(b)	Insecticides (D.D.T.)					
	(1) Council houses					16
	(2) Other houses	•••				23

The furniture and effects of 9 prospective tenants of Council houses were disinfested with hydrogen cyanide in the course of removal.

PUBLIC BATHS.

The Public Baths are owned by the Corporation and are under the control of the Health Committee.

The baths consist of one swimming bath 75 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, 61 cubicles, 2 large dressing rooms and 2 store rooms,

4 foot baths, 2 females' and 3 males' slipper baths. The water is kept in a clean and safe condition by means of a modern filtration plant consisting of filter tank, pump. motor, superheater, air compressor and aeration chamber, syphon, glass feed and chemical tanks. After filtration the water is chlorinated.

MORTUARY.

The Public Mortuary, situated in Gas Street, is the responsibility of the Health Committee, but its use is mainly determined by the County Police.

During the year it was used on 25 occasions for the reception of bodies and 19 post-mortem examinations were carried out.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are three accredited dairy farms in the district and six other farms. The milk supplied from these farms for consumption without heat treatment was sampled on 20 occasions, primarily for the presence of bovine tuberculosis but also for keeping quality.

Under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949, 135 persons were granted dealers' licences to sell sterilised milk, and 5 persons to sell pasteurised milk. 5 dealers' licences for the sale of tuberculin tested milk were also granted.

139 persons were registered as milk distributors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Two dairies are registered in the district.

20 samples of milk were examined during the year, two of which were not satisfactory. The tubercle bacillus was found in one sample of raw milk; the herd was examined and the affected animal removed.

(b) ICE CREAM.

7 premises are registered as being suitable for the manufacture of ice cream but only 4 were so used during the year.

40 premises were registered for the sale of ice cream, mostly wrapped ice cream.

83 inspections of ice cream dealers' and manufacturers' premises were made during the year. 23 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these, 17 were satisfactory, 4 were fairly good and 2 were not satisfactory. Subsequent samples from the two unsatisfactory ice creams were good.

(c) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

254 inspections of premises where food is stored or exposed for sale were made during the year. The following food was condemned and surrendered.

679 lbs. Beef. 9 tins Marmalade. 105 lbs. Pork. 2 tins Syrup. 472 lbs. Tapioca. 31½ lbs. Bacon. 202 lbs. 11 ozs. Cooked Ham. 15 lbs. Barley meal. 36 lbs. Tinned meat. $7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Barley flakes. 1 tin Rabbit. 30 lbs. Barley flour. 3 tins Meat and Vegetables. 1 tin Fruit pudding. 60 lbs. Vanilla Powder. 1 tin Sausage. 8 tins Soup. 12-8 oz. packets Cake mixture. 1 tin Scotch broth. 1121 lbs. Butter. 60 lbs. Frozen eggs. 18 Pkts. Cheese. 51 lbs. Cheese. 11-6 oz. jars Fish paste. 17 tins Salmon. 120 tins Evaporated milk. 2-16 oz. tins Pilchards. 100 lb. Dried milk. 13 tins Tomatoes. 2 tins Crawfish. 1 tin Tomato juice. 1 tin (1 lb.) Silver Hake. 16 tins Mussels. 46 tins Plums. 1 jar Beetroot. 6 tins Apples. 9 jars and 10 tins Pears. 1 tin Carrots. 1 tin Blackberries. 6 tins Butter Beans. 2 tins Apple juice. 28 tins Beans. 1 tin, 26 jars Cherries. 33 tins Peas. 2 tins Peaches. 75 lbs. Split Peas. 4 tins Grapes. 2 jars onions. 1 tin (20 oz.) Grape fruit. 2 tins Sild. 2 tins Grape fruit juice. 1 jar Bovril. 1 tin Apricot-nectar. 1 jar Piccalilli. 1 tin Orange juice. 3 tins Heinz baby food. 31 lbs. Figs. 26 Coconuts.

(d) Adulteration of Food.

The County Council is the Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :-

		0	•′	
Milk		 •••		 88
Other	articles			59

All the dry goods samples were certified by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following:—

•	*	0
Sample	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
 informal milk. informal milk. 	Deficient 10% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 8.6% of extraneous water. Deficient 11.7% solids-not-	
	fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 11·1% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Formal samples
1 informal milk.	Deficient 10% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 9.5% of extraneous water.	obtained.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 11·1% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 10·9% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 6.6% fat and 7.6% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 7.9% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 3.3% fat and 7.0% solids - not - fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 8.2% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Formal samples
1 informal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.8% of extraneous water.	obtained.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 3.3% fat and 4.1% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 4.5% extraneous water.	
1 informal milk.	Deficient 1.7% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 1.5%	
1 informal milk.	of extraneous water. Deficient 2.9% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 3% of extraneous water.	Same Vendor. Formal samples obtained.
1 informal milk.	Deficient 2.3% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 4.8% of extraneous water.	

1 formal milk. 1 formal milk.	Deficient 1.7% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 1.5% of extraneous water. Deficient 3.5% solids-not- fat. The freezing point indi- cated the presence of 3.0% of extraneous water.	Same Vendor. Vendor cau- tioned and fur- ther samples obtained.
1 informal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1.5% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples
1 informal milk.	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0.9% of extraneous water.	obtained.
1 vegetable, canned.	Contained 2.2 grains of tin per pound.	Further samples taken from same stock.

RODENT CONTROL.

During 1950, the work of rodent control continued, two rodent operatives being employed.

All rat infestations in the district are dealt with promptly, private dwellings being treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used, the preliminary survey being carried out free of charge.

198 surface infestations were dealt with and in addition the sewers of the town were systematically treated twice, in May and November.

SEWER TREATMENTS

	May	November
Total number of manholes.	984	984
Dates of treatment.	22nd May to 24th June	20th November to 23rd Dec.
Bait base and poison	Bread mash and arsenic.	Sausage rusk and zinc phosphide.
Number of manholes baited.	954	955
Number of manholes showing prebait take.	108	120
Number of manholes showing complete prebait take on 1 or both days.	75	85

PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE. MEASURES OF CONTROL.

	d jo oN linf	No. of properties in which infestation was	which s	No. infested by	sted by
Type of Property	Notified by occupier	Notified by Otherwise discovered	Total	Rats	Mice
Local authority's property	9	18	24	21	က
Dwelling houses	116	16	132	103	50
Business premises	19	გ	14	25	6
Agricultural property	Ţ	1	7	,	1
Total	142	56	198	157	41

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MEASURES
Σ

	No of	No of	trentm	No. of	181	Blook treatments	ote.
Thurs of Dugasanter	TO TOTAL	•		Carcoarca		our creating	
type of Froperty	inspected	made	Rats	Mice	No. of blocks	No. of separate occupiers	No. of manholes treated
Local Authority's property	16	51	21	က			
Dwelling houses	733	772	97	67	21	50	12
Business premises	. 67	25.82	35	6	I]	I
Agricultural property	-	21	F	1	1	1	
Total	817	206	151	41	21	20	12

HOUSING

	No.	of i	new l	nouses e	rected of	during	the yea	r :		
	(1)	By	the	local au	thority	•••		•••		122
	(2)	By	othe	r local a	authorit	ties	•••	•••	•••	Nil
	(3)	By	othe	r bodie	s or per	sons	•••	•••	•••	Nil
1.	Ins	pecti	ion o	f dwelli	ng hous	ses dur	ing the	year :-	_	
	(1)	(a)	for	mally of	r inforn	nally f	g-house or hous Housin	ing đe	fects	464
		(b)		mber of de for t			formal	or info	rmal 	2285
	(2)	(a)	hea rec	d (1) al	bove) w nder th	zhich`v ne Hou	ncluded vere ins using Co 932	pected	and	69
		(b)					e for thin progr		pose	603
	(3)	dan	igero		urious t		to be in th as to 			1
	(4)	ferr not	ed to	o under e in all r	the pr	ecedin	usive o g sub-h nably fit 	ead) fo	ound	459
2.				defects defects		the ye	ar with	out ser	vice	
		cons	sequ		inforn	nal act	ses rend tion by			348
3.	Acti	ion u	ındeı	statuto	ory pow	ers du	ring the	year :		
	(a)			ings und Act, 19		ions 9,	, 10 and	l 16 of	the	
		(1)					n respec		hich 	22
		(2)					hich, af endered			
			(a) (b)	by own	ners al autho	rity in	 default	of ow	ners	13 Nil

	(<i>b</i>)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—
		(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 67
	(2)	No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
		(a) By owners 49 (b) By local authority in default of owners 2
	(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the
		Housing Act, 1936:
		(1) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Ni
		(2) No. of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Ni
	(<i>d</i>)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—
		(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Ni
		(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or room
		having been rendered fit Ni
ł.	Hou	sing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding:—
	(a)	(i) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year, so far as known 51
		(ii) No. of families dwelling therein 78 (iii) No. of persons dwelling therein 399
	(<i>b</i>)	No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 22
	<i>(c)</i>	(i) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during
		the year 20 (ii) No. of persons concerned in such cases 90
		(ii) 10. of persons concerned in such cases

Housing Conditions.

1. General Observations as to Housing Conditions:—

Of the older houses in the town, most consist of the four room cottage type, built in terraced rows. Although of a fair standard for their type, they lack baths, hot water systems and ventilated larders. Despite the lack of these amenities, these houses will have to continue to provide a substantial part of the housing accommodation of the town for many years to come.

2. Sufficiency of Supply of Houses.

At the end of 1950, 1026 applications for Corporation houses had been received from families in lodgings. Approximately 51 houses were known to be overcrowded.

3. Fitness of Houses.

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department. Of the 1837 defects found during the year 1664 were remedied. Nevertheless, there is evident a gradual decline in the standard of house maintenance, especially painting of outside woodwork, owing to the high cost of repair work, periodic shortages of certain materials, and shortage of building labour on repair work.









